



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINE PLACES GREATER DEMAND ON ENTRY LEVEL WORKFORCE**

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.6% in October to 2.8% in November. This decline set a new all-time low for the state, in a year which has seen the rate set several records. Statewide employment also posted strong gains, adding 1,100 jobs over the same time period.

"People are skipping steps up the traditional career ladder in this tight labor market," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Since 2005 average wages have been growing at an average rate of 1.1 percent per quarter, which is 33 percent higher than the previous four year rate."

Private Education and Health Services<sup>\*\*</sup> added 600 positions, while Leisure and Hospitality increased by 300. Construction and Government both grew by 200, while Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, Natural Resources and Mining, and Other Services<sup>\*\*</sup> each added 100 jobs. Manufacturing, Information<sup>\*\*</sup>, and Financial Activities showed no change. Professional and Business Services posted the only decline, decreasing by 200 positions.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

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*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

*\*\*These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Labor Force data for Montana Indian Reservations is available on the Research and Analysis Bureau's website at:**

[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121)

**The December 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**